THE MAYOR'S INAUGURAL.

A Glance at the Finances---Advantages and Requirements of the Metropolis.

ENERGY WITH ECONOMY

City Improvements Should Be Pushed and Enforced Idleness Obviated.

GIVE US HONESTY IN PUBLIC WORKS

Street Cleaning Should Be Done by Contract Thoroughly---Finish the Bridge.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, MAYOR'S OFFICE, NEW YORK, Jan. 4, 1875.

TO THE HONORABLE THE COMMON COUNCIL:-GENTLEMEN-For the first time in the history of the government of the city the Common Council consists of but one Board of representatives of the people. Since the year 1857 there have existed in the administration of our local affairs various legislative bodies, the most prominent of which were a Board of Supervisors, a Board of Aldermen and a Board of Councilmen—subsequently known as Assistant Aldermen. In addition to these boards several commissions were, from time to time, created by law, in each of which were vested combined legislative and executive powers. The results of this divided authority were not satisfactory, and the legislative powers and duties of the have been concentrated in the Board of Aldermen,

which now alone constitutes the Common Council. During the period that the legislative power of the government was so divided the Common Counct! possessed but urtle influence in civic affairs. It was vested with no authority whatever over some officers of which had absolute control in all matters relating to the particular purposes of the government with which they were severally identified, and each department was allowed to exercise powers having a more material influence upon the well-being of the city than had those left the Common Council itself.

This system, as might have been expected.

the the Common council itself.
This system, as might have been expected, proved most permicious. The source of the power and influence of the departments the pitch the standard of the terminate of the departments the pitch and the standard of the terminate of the departments depended to the pass upon scheme after scheme presented by one or another of the departments, designed to the pass upon scheme after scheme presented by one of another of the departments designed to the stantie book there is evidence conclusive that the officers of the departments thought far more of the influence they could secure and the paironage they could command that they did of their official promoting their own laterests, while they overlooked those of the city.

The last remaints of this system should be craditative to the city of the standard the standard their own of the council of the city of the standard their own of the council of the city of the standard the standard their own of the council of the city of the standard the standard their own of the council own of the city of the standard their own of the council own of the council

duty to point out to you from time to time the particular measures which, in my opinion, it adopted by you, will remove some of the causes of the present general dissatisfaction with the causes of the present general dissatisfaction with the causes of the present general dissatisfaction with the management of the departments in the past, but the responsibility will be with you to enact these and such other provisions as may be necessary to enable the Mayor to require, and, it need be, compet, from the several heads of departments, such an administration of the affairs of the city committed to their charge, as will lead to greater efficiency in the fature and a reduction of expense in securing it.

THE MUNICIPAL PINANCES.

What the liabilities of the city really are I am not, at present, in a position to inform you. Public attention has hitherto been directed principally, if not, indeed, exclusively, to that portion of the indebtedness which has assumed the form of one or other of the various descriptions of bonds and stocks issued by the city. The information furnished to me by the Comptroller is to the effect that this class of indebtedness was, on the 31st day of December, 1874, as follows:—

Funded Debt—

Parable from the sinking tind. \$22.931.563

Temporary Debt—
Payable from assessments. \$20,851,000
Payable from building lien. \$700

Revenue bonds— Payable from taxation of 1874...... 2,707,500

ou. The time has arrived when, in my judgment, the

which can be obtained in reference to this hoating indebtedness I shall direct to be communicated to you.

The time has arrived when, in my judgment, the actual financial condition of the city should be definitely ascertained and published in detail. The taxpayers should be in possession of the full-est information on this subject, and without such information it will be impossible to devise or carry out any practical measures of effectual reflex.

Our revenues for the ordinary purposes of the government of the city are from two sources—first, taxation, and second, what is known as the general fund—the latter being a fund made up of all other moneys received by the city not set apart by law to increase the sinking fund. The largest amount received from the general fund in any one year has been \$3,000,000.

Our expenditures are determined by the appropriations made by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, acting in concert with the Common Council. Appropriations are made annually of the amounts required to pay the expenses of conducting the public business of the city and county in each department and branch thereof, and also of the Board of Education."

The amounts so appropriated, after deducting the general fund, are declared by law to be the sums to be raised annually by taxation; and in imposing this tax the Supervisors are authorized and required "to levy, in addition to the aggregate amount, thereof, such asims, not exceeding three per cent of the said aggregate amount, to provide for deficiencies in the actual product of the amount imposed and levied."

While the entire amount of the sums appropriated is expended for the purposes or requirements of the year for by transfer of any surplus to meet other expenditures, it may be, in succeeding years) there are deficiencies in the actual product of the amount imposed and levied."

While the entire amount of the sums appropriation of \$3,000,000 but the revenue from taxation will, as it has for some years past, fall short. The taxes are not payable, and are

are issued or in the first months of the ensuing year.

I have ascertained that for several years past the uncollected taxes from personal property have amounted annually to about \$1,000,000. This is irrecoverably lost to the city, and no provision has been made, so far as I know, to provide otherwise than as I have explained for that loss. The taxes levied and which are collected are never-received within the year for which they are imposed, and frequently a term of years is allowed to pass before particular taxes are paid. The delay allowed by law is extensively taken advantage of, the only penalty being an increase of interest upon the taxes in arrears.

With our expenditures annually exceeding our income set apart by law to meet them, confusion in our finances is inevitable, and no skill in management can extricate such a system from that soniusion. The system itself must be changed to secure improvement in results.

in our finances is inevitable, and no skill in management can extricate such a system it from that contusion. The system itself must be changed to secure improvement in results.

In no official report which I have seen has any liniormation been laid before the public showing the extent to which the taxes are paid within the year in which they are imposed, or the average period within which the arrears are paid. The periodical reports of the financial officers of the eity snould give the particulars, as nearly as can be ascertained, of all unpaid taxes and assessments at the date of such reports, with all other information which would go to present, as clearly as possible, a statement of the real financial position of the city—its debts on the one hand and the outstanding claims due to it on the other—that the public may be able to judge, as cach successive statement appears, whether any improvement has been made in our finances since the date of the statement preceding. A first step toward in minimizes such periodical information is the preparation, at as early a date as possible, of a balance sheet showing the financial position of the city at the close of the past year; and I shall heartily cooperate with you in whatever measures may be necessary to procure such a balance sheet.

MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES FOR 1875.

The appropriations for the year 1875, as finally determined by the Board of Supervisors to provide for denciencies, less a credit of \$3,000,000 carried from the general fund, will be imposed by tax during the year will be about three per cent, upon the sassessed value of all taxase property.

In this final estimate of \$36,956,472 there has been appropriated for—

State taxes...........\$6,50,940

State taxes
Common schools for the State
Interest on the City debt
Payment of stocks and bon is falling due, &c | 145, 763
Pourth avenue improvement
Lice, 70
Taxable charities
St. 905 -or a total of \$21,191,821; leaving a balance of \$15,764,650.

services required, I cannot at present state. But they are succest of appropriations for the government, and most earnest attention. All receive my early and most earnest attention and receive my early and most earnest attention. The appropriations made for the year being designed to meet and cover every object and purposes of the government, a provision was very properly inserted in the charter "that no expense shall be incurred by any of the departments, boards, or officers thereot, unless an appropriation shall have been previously made covering such expense."

Out the proper of the government of the covernment of

commenced several years since have made little or no return for the large advances which the city has made for them; and this delay, which operates to the benefit of the property owners who are in arrears with their assessments, goes far to cripple the energies of the city in carrying on other and equally important works, which are anxiously desired, not only by the parties more immediately interested, but by the citizens generally.

I am in favor of proceeding with our public works at a pace as rapid as is required to keep up with the growth of the city; and I consider that this may be accomplished without increasing the debt beyond its present sum. With care and attention there onght to be no difficulty in securing, out of a large amount of assessments imposed and to be imposed, a return sufficient to carry on, as extensively as the requirements of the city demand, all the most pressing of the works in progress or contempiated. As I view the matter, the property owners have the solution of the question much in their own hands. The assessment debt is exclusively theirs, and, if they desire that lurtner work be prosecuted, it is but due to the city that this debt owing by them should be paid, and the city be thus placed in a position in which it can obtain further sums to be applied to new works.

the city be thus placed in a position in which it can obtain further sums to be applied to new words.

The conscruction of the roadway or drive adjoining the kiverside Park should be at once proceeded with. The property owners in that district, under the compalision of law, had to pay a large assessment upon their property for the tands taken to form this roadway and the proposed park adjoining. How or when the park itself should be improved I am not at present prepared to say; but the drive or avenue forming its eastern boundary is imperatively required, and the construction of this roadway is but an act of justice to those who have paid so heavily upon the understanding that that work should be at once prosecuted to completion. It will secure access to an extensive tract of ground, the value of which will be thereby considerably enhanced, and this increased value will inure to the ocuefit of the city as an accession to its taxable fund. I recommend this subject to your early consideration, and trust that you will concur with me in the propiety of having the necessary measures enacted for the projects known as the Morningside and Riverside parks. Were it an open question it may be doubted whether at the present day the idea would be entertained of subjecting the city to the expense of laying out a park on the site chosen for the Morningside a Park. But work upon the road or avenue running from 110th to 122d sfreet, known as Morningside and forming the proposed boundary of this park on the west, has been proceeded with to a considerable extent. The money already expended in the construction of this road will ce cutriety lost to the city it the work is permitted to remain as at present: and, even if further prosecution of that work is only temporarily delayed, the expense of completing it will be much increased, because in its present unfinished condition it is subject to great damage by the elements. That this avenue will be a public benefit when completed there can be no question. The work upon it should, ther

tion. The work upon it should, therefore, be prosecuted without any unnecessary delay. I submit the subject to your favorable consideration and prompt action.

WORK FOR THE HUNGRY.

In this connection it may not be improper to suggest that the immediate prosecution of the work upon the Riverside roadway and Morningside avenue will give labor to many who are at present suffering through enforced idleness. It is, to be sure, no part of the business of government, as such, to furnish work for any of its citizens; but in all large cities the public works provide for a portion of the community, who are dependent principally upon them for employment. The suspension of these works is a serious misf-rtune to those so dependent. Such persons desire not charity but honest employment, and as their labor, when properly directed, contributes to the wealth of the city, it ought to be secured when it is practicable to do so.

The manner in which our public works snould be carried on, whether by day's labor or by contract, is a subject which must necessarily come before you, and as to which you will be called upon to act. Apart from those special laws passed by the Legislature authorizing the construction of particular works, the charter provides that any work to be constructed by or on behalf of the city, at an expense exceeding \$1,000, shall be by contract, on scaled bids and proposals, unless otherwise or dered by a voic of three-fourths of the embers elected to the Common Council.

Of course, it is not for me now to anticipate when or under what circumstances you may consider it for the public interest to exercise the power thus vested in you, but the circumstances, in my judgment, should be of an extraordinary character, and the benefit to the city should be clear and unmistakable, to warrant you in permitting a departure from the ruie requiring the public works of the work, and it may be found that the interests of the city require that some disaffection with the manner of the work and it may be worked to be secured to t

of the particular kind of work to be done are not of themselves a guarantee that thoroughness on the part of the contractors will be exacted before the part of the contractors will be exacted before the part of the contractors will be exacted before the part of the contractors will be exacted before the part of the common Council the subject is one which it is peculiarly in your power to remedy.

Many of the pavements south of Forty-second street and those of some of the avenues are to-day impediments to travel. Our experience has developed the fact that wooden pavements, as here-tofore constructed, cannot be maintained in such a condition as to make them useful or said. All the streets and avenues in which this pavement has been laid and those in which other pavements are in a condition to impede travel, out to the pavements are in a condition to the paped travel, out to the contract of the pavements which have met the requirements of our commerce and tradic and the useful romain and the series of pavements which have met the requirements of our commerce and tradic and the useful romain and the series of the expenses therefor paid for by the owners of the adjoining property of assessment shall heresare be paved at their expense, nor shall any assessment therefor be imposed unless the same soft the property (who shall also be the owners of the adjoining property of assessments to be imposed in provement." As the city has no authority to issue its bonds for paving streets except on the security of assessments are prohibited from sump bonds or borrowing money upon bonds for improving or renewing the pavement of any street or avenue in the city which has aircady been once paved.

The law has made a distinction—the reason for which it is difficult to precive—between the public works of the city which lie to the north and those to the south of the Harlem river, except those in public parks and places, its under the sub-drains through the property of the city and severa to the north of the Harlem river, are under the

justly proud. The expense incurred in constructing and ornamenting it has been returned to the city in the enhanced value of the property surrounding it and the consequent increase of the taxable fund of the city. This property has been well administered, and the trust we have received requires from us the greatest care in its management. It is a question how far, considering the present amount of the habilities of the city, it is desirable to proceed with new works of construction in the Park. My own opigion is, that so much has been done, and done so well, in this respect, that for some time to come it will be desirable to follow a conservative course. If the roads and grounds are well cared for during the next few years, nature will in that time do far more to add to the beauty and attractions of the Park than any new works how entered upon can accomplish. An essential in the proper preservation of the Park is the maintenance there of an efficient police lorce, and this must be secured if the Park is to continue to be the scene of enjoyment and recreation for all classes of our citizens.

Infrontance of the city's Dock System.

The natural advantages of the city, with its extensive water frontage, have secured to it that commerce which has made New York the metropoins of the country. To develop these advantages to their utmost the construction of better wharves and piers and of increased terminal facilities for our commerce is necessary. Too title attention has been given to this important subject in the past, and now, as a consequence of this neglect, we find ourselves exposed to the just complaint that the commerce of the city is subjected to inconvenience and expense, as compared with that at other ports, which cannot but operated terrimentally to our interests. Work upon the new docks, as projected, should be pushed forward as speedily as they can be properly built. I will aid in carrying on these works, as lar as my power and influence extend. There is not a dollar we invest in this undertaking which wi because of improvident action in the past, are maintained not for the benefit of the city but for individuals. Leases were obtained from the city at almost nominal rents, and the property leased has, in many instances, been sub-let, securing an income to the lessee largely in excess of the amount paid for the property to the city. The whole subject of leasing dock or wharf property should receive your early attention.

Economy in completing first public Buildings. The building known as the New Court House should be completed. I am opposed to all commissions made independent of the regular officers of the government, for any special purpose winatever. There are at present three such commissions in existence—one for the completion of the Third District Court House, and the third is what is known as the Armory Commission. All three should be abolished. The two Court Houses can be completed more economically and the work upon them can be better done unner the supervision of one or more of the regular responsible officers of the government than in any other manner. There is a fund available for the completion of the New Court House which is ample for this purpose, and the work should therefore be proceeded with a ter proper plans shall have been prepared and approved of, and contracts made with responsible officers of the government than interproper plans shall have been prepared and approved of, and contracts made with responsible parties, under suitable penalities for having the work fluished within the limitations of the contract.

parties, under suitable pensities for naving the work shished within the limitations of the contract.

SHALL THE CITY BUILD ARMORIES?

How to deal with our armories is a question, the answer to which cannot much longer be postponed. The National Guard is a valuable auxiliary in maintaining peace and order in the city, and in view of this the efficiency of the guard must be provided for. To secure this efficiency the various regiments should be furnished proper quarters. For some time the city has withheld payment of the rents of all the armories leased from third parties, and all the regiments quartered in such premises are liable, at any moment, to be turned into the street. This state of affairs ought not to continue. The subject of furnishing armories in buildings erected and owned by the city is one worthy of your early consideration; but until provision is made, in this or in some other manner, for providing the regiments with permanent quarters, temporary accommodations must be secured for them. The Seventh regiment, which is one of the best, is virtually without any armory. The premises occupied by it at Tompkins' Market were, some months ago, injured by fire and rendered unft for use, and the damage has not yet been repaired. The building is owned by the city, and should long ago have been repaired. No private property of such value would have been allowed to remain so many months in a damaged condition. A lease has been executed by the Commissioners of the sinking fund of the block of ground belonging to the city bounded by and situated between Sixty-sixth and Sixty-seventh streets and Fourth and Lexington avenues for the erection of an armory for this regiment. It seems but just to the regiment that a proper building should be there erected for them without nurther delay.

I consider it my duly to institute an inquiry into all the facts and circumstances connected with leases of armories, and will communicate to you the measures which, in my opinion, ought to be adopted to put an end to the present un SHALL THE CITY BUILD ARMORIES ?

pression. Our police system must not be managed under party influence or for party purposes. Promotion and advancement in the force should not be the result of political influence, nor should this influence be allowed to interfere with discipline. A ppointments on the force ought never to be conferred unless the Commissioners are fully satisfied of the personal fitness and capacity of the applicant, and merit should be the only standard of promotion from the ranks. There are many radical and wholesome changes in the department which can yet be made before the force will exhibit the discipline and general efficiency which the public is entitled to exact from it. This department, in addition to the duty imposed upon it for protecting the public peace, is charged with the supervision of elections. The importance of a faithful performance of this latter duty cannot be overestimated. Past experience has informed us as to the wrong which may be done by a negligent and illegal administration of this trust; and there should be no cause for complaint upon that subject again. So far as any power or discretion is vested in me, my endeavors shall be, in refertion the eviews above expressed.

UNSATISFACTORY STREET CLEANING.

The work of cleaning the streets and avenues of the city is at present under the care and management of the Police Department. This is an important matter, closely related as it is to the nealth of the city. The Police Department was established for a very different purpose, and in my opinion it is not consistent with a system of good government to impose duties upon any department which must necessarily to a large extent divert the attention of the chief officers from the periormance of the duties with which they are specially and more appropriately charged.

By the charter the power is vested in you to "regulate the cleaning of the streets, avenues, sidewalks and gutters and removing ice and snow from them." This is an extensive grant of legislitative power, and more appropriately charged, however, wi

not extend beyond the year—the appropriation only being for the year—no delay which can be avoided ought to take place before the subject is considered by you.

NECESSITY OF AN EFFICIENT FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Fire Department should be maintained in a condition of thorough efficiency. We are frequently reminded, by the unioriunate experience of other cities, of the disasters to which we may be subjected by fire which cannot be controlled. Our principal security against such a calamity rests in the training and discipline of our firemen, the completeness of the machinery at their disposal, with an abundant supply of water and proper facilities for applying it when required. Too muon care cannot be devoted to perfecting these various details. Their importance demands unceasing waterininess, that we may be found prepared for any emergency which may arise.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

The Department of Health is vested with exclusive powers in matters relating to the public health, but these powers, under the present management of the department, are not likely to be exercised except for the public good.

TANES AND ASSESSMENTS.

In the administration of the Department of Taxes and Assessments a revision is required of the rolls of personal property subject to taxation. The lact that the tax on personal property falls short, to the extent of \$1,000,000 annually, shows the necessity which exists for immediate action.

MORE ROOM WANTED IN THE CITY PRISON.

be taken to obviate this loss shall receive my cooperation.

More room wanted in the city prison.

Some alterations must be made to provide increased accommodation in what is known as the
City Prison. The subject has been frequently referred to in the presentments of grand juries.
Action ought to be no longer delayed. I do not
recommend the project of erecting a new prison,
as I am satisfied that, with a moderate outlay, accommodation can be secured within the limits of
the present building to meet the present requirements. The outlay for this purpose should be a
part of the ordinary expenditures of the government. If the moneys required can be provided
under existing authority I shall at an early date

Shall fill markers as sold?

The best plan for dealing with the city market property is a subject the consideration of which I carnestly recommend to you. The revenues of the city received from this source form no adequate return on the value of the investments. Such under the conducted in the public in erest in the hands of private individuals than under city management. The subject should be thoroughly investigation of the conducted in the public in erest in the hands of private individuals than under city management. The subject should be had to the subject to the conditions imposed by the charter. In disposing of this property, it such a course is resolved upon, due regard should be had to the interests of those who have invested in market property, onder regard should be had to the interests of those who have here passed by the condition of the ordinances of the city has been a frequent subject of complaint. Laws have been passed by the Legislature, year after year, which mave had the effect of modifying or annuling provisions of city ordinances therefore existing and still not formally repealed. The account of the city refixe, such as its nack system, places of public amagements, weights and measures, street railroads and obstructions in streets, they are systematically disregarded. So manifest have been the evils resulting from this disregard of authority that the subject, some time since, attracted the attention of the Bar Association of the city, and after some communication between that association and your predecessors, an understanding was arrived at by which it was left to the Bar Association of the city and after some communication between that association and required to make a committee of its members, to suggest a revision and codification of existing ordinances, and to prepare distributions of the city and to prepare and to the city and to a proper such the city and the publication of notices to tax payers and to the ci

iended publicity to such subjects relating to the Corporation as may be deemed best for the public interest.

OUR CITY MUST HAVE RAPID TRANSIT.

The question of speedy communication between the extremes of the city is forcing itself upon public attention. The schemes are many which have been suggested to accomplish this purpose, but the results have not been satisfactory. Charters have been granted by the Legislature, conferring valuable franchises, but from these he advantage to the citzens generally has resulted. So carnest is the desire manifested for securing rapid transit in the city that a board of civil engineers, self-constituted, but including gentlemen most eminent in their profession, has now undertaken to prepare plans to overcome, if possible, the obstacles hitherto encountered. All that I can do, acting within the powers conferred upon me by law, shall be willingly done toward accompishing this much needed improvement.

10 some extent a remedy has been provided by tunneiling Fourth avenue above Forty-second street. This work, when completed according to the required plans, with lour tracks from Harlem River to Forty-second street, will give an unobstructed course to passenger trains for or from the north, east and west, into and out of the city. As provided by the law authorizing the improvement, two of the tracks are to be devoted exclusively to rapid transit within the city, and as it is probable that the Harlem River Railroad Company will soon extend the four tracks from Harlem River northerly to the new city limits we may soon have rapid fransit from the Softhern boundary of the city to Forty-second street, a distance of ten miles, and over a route which is nearly the axial line of the city. If this work could be extended southerly to the City Hall, three and one-half miles, the problem of rapid transit would be partly solved. The city's proportion of the expense of the improvement on Fourth avenue is \$3,20,000. I approve of the action taken by my immediate predecessor in discontinuing the lit

tion taken by my immediate predecessor in dis-continuing the litigation connected with this im-provement. The work should be completed as speedily as possible, and the obligation of the city should be promptly met. Upon the west sice of the city we have the Elevated Railroad, which, running in connection with trains on the Hudson River Italiroad, brings the western portion of the northern part of the island into easy communica-tion with the southern part of the city. I shall watch with interest ail developments in reference to this important subject, and shall aid so far as I can ail practical measures which may be pre-sented to secure to the city the full benefits of rapid transit.

can all practical measures which may be presented to secure to the city the full benefits of rapid transit.

The Brooklyn bridge should be completed. I am of opinion that the work upon the bridge across the East River to Brooklyn should be continued. This I do not consider an open question. If it were so the erection of a bridge upon the present site would not receive my approval. The project, however, has now so far advanced that it should, without any unnecessary delay, be prosecuted to completion. The tower on the Brooklyn side is substantially finished. On the New York side the tower has been carried a few feet above the springing of the arches, and can be completed during the coming working season. The Brooklyn anchorage is within twenty feet of completion, and will require about three months' work to finish it. The castings required to support the cables of both towers are made. A consolidation of the cities of New York and Brooklyn into one municipality is but a question of time. When this oridge is completed that union may become a fact.

months work to inhisalt. The castings required to support the cables of both towers are made. A consolidation of the cities of New York and Brooklyn into one municipality is but a question of time. When this oridge is completed that union may become a fact.

PROTECTION FROM ALBANY LEGISLATION.

The practice to which I have referred, of officers of departments applying for and obtaining special legislation at Albany as to matters affecting particular interests of the city, must entirely case. It should be your endeavor, as it will be mine, to protect the city against special legislation of any and every kind and form. How injurious it has been in the past cannot be estimated. I find that within the last ten years, by mundatory laws passed at Albany, the city has been compelled to raise upon its bonds the enormous amount of \$50,000,000; and as to the benefit secured to the city by this expenditure, I am satisfied that, in every sense, the interest of the city would have been more advanced at less than half the only if those obligations had been determined by its local government and the moneys raised applied under its own direction to promote, not special, but the general interest of the city.

This is an evil which operates to the disadvantage of the city in many respects. The iscillates sti affords for raising money have made it one of the most fruitful causes of the subjection of local self-government. It has become a matter of common remark with those who have their interests to serve through this class of legislation, that Albany is the place for them to carry on their operations. But this must cease. With your aid I shall, by every means at my compromise—no influence, whatever it may be, to a contrary course, should receive countenance at our hands. With the view of determining what legislation it may be advisable to promote to secure improvements in the government of this city, and which is not promoted by you for the general good. On this matter we must not permit any compromise—no influence, whatever the

desired.

The government of this city is a complicated matter, and in attending to its various interests unceasing watchiuness is necessary. When to act and how to act in discharge of the duties we are required to perform are questions to be kept continually before us, and, relying upon that aid promised to all who, in singleness of purpose and purity of motive, desire to overcome evil with good, I will at all times endeavor so to perform my duty that, under my administration as Chief Magistrate, improvement in the affairs of the city may be secured.

WILLIAM B. WICKHAM, Mayor.

BROOKLYN CIVIC AFFAIRS.

Annual Message of Mayor Hunter.

The City Declared To Be \$33,048,621 in Debt.

LESS BONDS MUST HEREAFTER BE ISSUED.

Economy in Public Expenditures To Be the Rule.

THE METHOD OF DOING IT.

At the meeting and organization of the Common Council of the City of Brooklyn yesterday afternoon the Mayor read his annual Message. After noting the blessings which have been vouchsafed the people during the past year, Mayor Hunter

At a period when the country is gradually returning to specie payments and a nard money currency, financial affairs and economy in all branches of the public service are of more than ordinary importance.

of the City of Brooklyn, including all her obligaor \$35,048,621. Of this amount \$11,635,365 is secured by local assessments, and may be properly styled a temporary debt. With the exception of the assessments laid for the construction of the Sackett street boulevard, together with the improvement of Douglass and Degraw streets, no considerable portion of these assessments is threatened with disturbance either by the Legislature or the courts, and it is believed that the act passed lat winter to care detects supposed to exist in previous legislation in regard to the boulevard and streets named will render abortive the proceedings against those particular assessments. This portion of the city debt may therefore be considered as reasonably secure of liquidation from local sources, and not likely in any great measure to become a charge upon the city at large. Deducting, then, this temporary deot from the aggregate I have given, we have lett as the funded or permanent debt of the city, for which the city at large is responsible, the sum of \$23,43,256. In relation to this funded deot it should moreover be borne in mind that that portion of it consisting of warren Bonds, and amounting to \$10,620,000, does not increase our annual taxes, but is met by the water revenue, which is sufficient not merely to pay the interest, but affords in addition a gradually accumulating sinking fund to meet the principal of these bonds when they become due. Attention is called to the fact that there has been an increase in the debt since December 31, 1873, 0, 5525, 115.

A little reflection, however, will deprive this fact of any startling characteristic. The increase of the city debt in each of the preceding three years was as follows, viz.: erly styled a temporary debt. With the